

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: SCHONNENBECK, Gert

SERIAL NO.: 10/623,467

ART UNIT: 3682

FILED: July 18, 2003

EXAMINER: Charles, M.

TITLE: TRACTOR HITCH TRANSMISSION

AMENDMENT "B"

Director of the U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Second and Final Office Action of January 10, 2006, a response being due by April 10, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, previous Claims 10 - 19 have been canceled and new Claims 20 - 24 substituted therefor. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the foregoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of placing the application into a proper condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that Claims 10 - 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Brambilla patent. Claims 10 and 19 were also rejected as being obvious over the Trott.

Claims 13 - 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Brambilla patent in view of the McColl patent. Importantly, it was indicated that Claims 16 - 18 are "objected to" as

being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's prior art rejections, Applicant is desirous of securing patent protection for the present invention at an early date. As such, Applicant has placed those "objected to" claims into a proper independent Claim form so as to secure an early allowance of a patent in the present application.

In particular, new independent Claim 20 reflects the limitations of previous independent Claim 10 and includes the limitations of objected-to Claim 16 and the limitations of intervening Claims 11, 12 and 15. As such, such Claim 20 should now be in a proper condition for allowance. The informal term "suf-ro" has been replaced with the term "for". Dependent Claims 21 and 22 reflects the limitations of previous dependent Claims 13 and 14.

New independent Claim 23 incorporates the limitations of objected-to Claim 17, along with the limitations of base Claim 10 and intervening Claims 11 and 12. As such, such Claim 23 should now be in a proper condition for allowance. Dependent Claim 24 reflects the limitations of previous dependent Claim 18.

Applicant has canceled previous independent Claim 19 in view of the Examiner's rejections. As such, the formality objection with respect to Claim 19 should no longer be applicable.

Based upon the forgoing analysis, Applicant contends that independent Claims 20 and 23 are now in proper condition for allowance. Additionally, those claims which are dependent upon these independent claims should also be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and

allowance of the claims at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since no new claims have been added above those originally paid for, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

J.S.E.
4-10-06

Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

Commissioner for Patents
Portion. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence comprising:

AMENDMENT "B"

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
Portion. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 4-10-06

4-10-06
Date

Respectfully submitted,


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